

September 21, 1973

GSA BULLETIN FPMR B-40  
ARCHIVES AND RECORDS

TO: Heads of Federal agencies

SUBJECT: Withdrawal of authority to dispose of records

1. Purpose. In accordance with the authority in FPMR 101-11.406-8 (44 U.S.C. 2909), this bulletin announces withdrawal of disposal authorizations covering records listed in disposal schedules. Specifically those records are military service records of individuals discharged from the United States Army, November 1, 1912, through December 31, 1959, and the United States Air Force, September 18, 1947, through December 31, 1963. Disposal authorizations may be applied to all records documenting military service in the United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, and the United States Coast Guard. Records relating to service of individuals in the United States Army and United States Air Force discharged during years other than those cited above may be disposed of as authorized by current records disposal authorizations.

2. Expiration date. This bulletin contains information of a continuing nature and will remain in effect until canceled.

3. Background.

a. The recent fire at the Military Personnel Records Center building, St. Louis, Missouri, destroyed service records of former members of the armed forces. FPMR Bulletin B-39 directed all Federal agencies to suspend disposal of all records which could be used to reconstitute these service records.

b. Service records of members of the United States Army (including Army Air Service, Army Air Corps, and Army Air Forces) who were discharged between November 1, 1912, and December 31, 1959, and members of the United States Air Force who were discharged between September 18, 1947, and December 31, 1963, were destroyed.

c. Records of military service for individuals discharged from the United States Army prior to November 1, 1912, and subsequent to December 31, 1959, and discharged from the United States Air Force subsequent to December 1963 were not destroyed. There was no significant loss of records of military service in the United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, and United States Coast Guard.

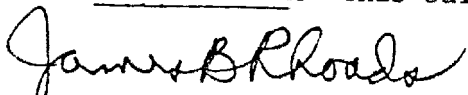
4. Procedures.

a. All Federal agencies are requested to suspend indefinitely disposal of any records that may be used to reconstitute records of military service in the United States Army for individuals discharged between November 1, 1912, and December 31, 1959, and in the United States Air Force between September 18, 1947, and December 31, 1963. These records include those containing information regarding dates of service, physical injuries, and mental impairment.

b. All Federal agencies may resume the normal disposal of records affected by GSA Bulletin FPMR B-39 other than those requested to be retained by this bulletin. Records relating to military service in the United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, and those relating to military service in the United States Army for individuals discharged prior to November 1, 1912, and subsequent to 1959 and in the United States Air Force for individuals discharged from January 1, 1964, to the present may be disposed of according to existing records control schedules.

c. Exceptions to this bulletin will be approved by the Archivist of the United States. Requests for exceptions should be addressed to General Services Administration (NC), Washington, DC 20408.

5. Cancellation. This bulletin cancels GSA Bulletin FPMR B-39.



JAMES B. RHOADS

Archivist of the United States